

PROJECTED WORKS.—Advertisements have been issued for tenders, by 10th April, for the erection of a chapel and other works at the Licensed Victuallers' Asylum, Old Kent-road; by a date not specified, for the erection of six carcasses and the completion of four other houses near Holloway;—also for the erection of two houses and shops in Hackney-road; by 26th inst., for constructing 525 feet of brick sewer and other works in Piccadilly; by 23rd inst., for enlarging, reseating, and restoring Little Harrowden Church, Northamptonshire, and erecting new schools there; by 26th, for the erection of a goods warehouse at Bradford for the Midland Railway Company; by 26th, for a supply of blue whinstone for the Renfrewshire turnpike roads; by 10th April, for two cast-iron purifiers with valves, sieves, and connections complete, to be erected at the works of the Bristol and Clifton Gas-light Company; by 29th inst., for forming, making, culverting, &c., 1,500 yards of new streets at Wolverhampton; by 9th April, for a supply of turn-tables for the Great Northern Railway; by 26th inst., for the supply of 400 12-inch socket pipes, &c., for the Coventry Gas Company; and by 9th May, for the erection of works on portions of the Great Northern Railway, near Newark and Retford.

RAILWAY JOTTINGS.—The London and North-Western have subscribed 500*l.* to the International Exhibition. As with the Architects' Institute, a question has been raised as to the power of the Company legally to do so.—At the late half-yearly meeting of the Chester and Holyhead, the chairman, Captain Moormann, said he hardly knew whether to congratulate or to condole with the shareholders on the occasion. The Menai Straits may have been passed, the Government and the public may have been saved some 60,000*l.* a-year in the packet service, and the passage to Dublin from London shortened by four hours; but the Company itself had gained nothing, and worse than nothing, for they had not even the credit of having performed a great public service. They had been put to an expense of 200,000*l.* towards the harbour of refuge at Holyhead, by the threat that, unless they did, it would be undertaken by Government. Certain negotiations, however, were pending, and he must be silent. After a somewhat noisy discussion, a resolution was passed agreeing to a Bill now before Parliament for powers to lease the line to the London and North-Western.—The Bill proposed by Mr. Ricardo to establish regulations for traffic provides, that companies be required to stop passenger trains, and to provide them at junctions, under a penalty of 50*l.* Companies to be bound to attach at junctions carriages of other companies, containing a certain number of passengers; and trains arriving after time to be forwarded at the expense of the company causing such irregularity. Proper accommodation to be provided for goods and passengers at junctions. When two places are connected by two or more railways, passengers to be booked by the shortest route, under a penalty of 10*l.* Goods wagons to be forwarded, if required, and minerals also within twelve hours after notice.

THE ARCHITECTURAL EXHIBITION will be held during the months of August and September, as stated in our advertising columns.

ELECTRO-TELEGRAPHIC PROGRESS.—A new discovery has been made by Mr. W. S. Thomas, of Norwich, New York, called the electro-thermic telegraph. Letters patent were granted to Mr. Thomas on February 12, 1850. This instrument is said to possess all the advantages of Morse and Bain's, and to be in some respects far superior. Mr. Thomas, it is said, does not use the magnet, or decompose a salt, but works on an entirely new principle, never before applied to telegraphing, and placed beyond all litigation. The principle is caloric, generated and controlled by the galvanic battery, and the operator, it is asserted, is enabled to transmit twice the amount of business in the same time as with any telegraph now in use.—The Austrian Government, it appears, has opened to public use the electric telegraph between Vienna and Oldersburg: the way is thus now open from Vienna to Berlin.—The French National Assembly Committee have approved the principle of the Bill for opening the French lines of electric telegraph.

CURE OF SMOKY CHIMNEYS.—I beg leave to say my experience is corroborative of the efficacy of the system of contraction at the bottom of the flue, and the reverse at the top: I have tried it in many cases for the last dozen years, and it has invariably succeeded. The last cure I effected on this principle was a drawing-room chimney of a detached cottage, where the draught down the chimney was so strong as to drive the flame as well as smoke into the room. The plan I adopted was to cut into the back of the chimney immediately above the fireplace, and insert two chimney-pots,—a small and a large one,—applying the small end of the least downwards nearest the fire, and the larger one the same manner on that, which carried it to where the flue was of its regular size. It may be asked why the small aperture in the register did not have the desired effect? I answer that the chamber formed by the gathering of the flue immediately above the register is a receptacle for the smoke, which is driven into the room by the least wind, or a partial vacuum may be created, into which the cold air rushes from the top to restore the natural equilibrium. And I would beg leave to suggest, with a due respect to our architects, to set out the wythes of the flues 9 inches instead of 4½ inches, so that when they start the shaft, the flue being 9 inches by 9 inches, might batten on the inside gradually to 12 inches by 12 inches when finished. A desire to abolish those architectural marplots, those vile zinc monstrosities which disfigure so many of our edifices, public and private, by leading others to test the system, will be my excuse for making this communication.—A WORKING BRICK-LAYER.

OPENINGS IN THE CITY.—It has often occurred to me that advantage should be taken of any casual openings to improve the public ways; and not to let slip one, which I perceive at present fitted to subserve the object in view, I beg to allude to the pulling down of a large pile of buildings in Bell-yard, Gracechurch-street, where the Cross Keys Inn used to be; and it is to be hoped, that now so much space is vacant, care may be taken not to crowd buildings on to the same spot. I suggest, that instead of a dingy dark court-yard, surrounded with blind alleys, there should be a break in the continuous line of brick and mortar facing Gracechurch-street, and that, in the space thus thrown open by the pulling down of houses, a nicely flagged square, or "place," as the French have it, should be allowed to grow up. The width to be sufficient to give light to rooms looking into the said square or "place," from houses on each side, and that there be no projections, in order that the windows from the first floor upwards should command the thoroughfare in Gracechurch-street. On the ground-story there might be a range of projecting shops, which would not interfere with the upper windows commanding the street (Gracechurch-street), nor prevent their being let, whilst these shops might be themselves well lighted from dome roof, as well as from their front windows.—CIVIS.

THE MASONS' STRIKE AT GRIMSBY is still, we regret to say, unsettled. The cause appears to have been the refusal of the contractors to return to the 5*s.* a-day given before the short-day reduction to 4*s.* 6*d.*, their alleged intention being on the contrary to reduce the wages still further.

DISTRICT SURVEYORS' CHARGES.—Differing from my friend Mr. Baker, I think you have with great kindness and judgment (for which you deserve the thanks of the district surveyors) forbore to give the name of one who has been convicted by the official referees and the Board of Works of making exorbitant charges. But for this Mr. Baker finds fault with you, fearing lest the censure given anonymously might fall upon him. I have no such fear; nor do I wish to defend the system of charges in question; but still, as a district surveyor, I offer you my thanks for the delicacy you have shown in your report of the case, and I do think that Mr. Baker, who is so vehement in his condemnation, does not sufficiently bear in mind the difficulties attending the introduction of a professionally difficult Act into a new district. Charity becomes us all, but more especially when a brother's failings are made manifest.—EDW. C. HAKSWILL.
Craig's-court, Charing-cross.

DARTFORD.—On the 17th instant the organ in Dartford Church was re-opened. During the past winter the instrument has been much enlarged; and to avoid obstruction to the fine Decorated west window, and to forward other improvements in the church, it has undergone an entire reconstruction. The restoration or reconstruction of the window in the vestry-room progresses. Little doubt exists in the writer's mind that this window was altered during the reign of King Henry VII., from a triple Early English window to a Perpendicular, and hence the weakness which caused it to fall in last year. Care has been taken of the nearly perfect collection of Oxford albs hitherto kept in this room, and during the restoration they have been removed to the Armoury. In this Armoury the fittings put up during the Commonwealth still remain.

ENCOURAGEMENT TO ARCHITECTS.—The Town Council of East Retford have announced their determination to have a corn exchange, and to give, for "the best plan" (not forgetting "specifications and estimates"), the munificent sum of three guineas (note the gentility of the odd shillings); for the second best, only one guinea less; the remaining guinea to be thrown away upon the third! Architecture is looking up amongst the wise men of East Retford.—We almost forgot to warn all and sundry, by the way, that "the town council of East Retford" have also determined "not to give anything for plans not deserving of merit,"—such plans certainly not being deserving of payment at least, in the face of others whose own merit must constitute their best,—since it will be their only,—payment or solatium at East Retford.

THE SOCIETY OF BRITISH ARTISTS will open their exhibition to the public on Monday. The collection is thought to be above the average degree of merit. Mr. Hurlstone has two very good works; Mr. Herring some beautiful bits; Mr. Baxter an excellent head of Mr. Clint. Mr. Allen, Mr. Payne, Mr. Noble, Mr. Percy, Mr. Anthony, and others, exhibit some good specimens of their art.

THE ROMAN REMAINS IN MOULSHAM, recently excavated by Mr. French, consist of very perfect specimens of massive and apparently vitrified walling, and portions of two chambers, in one of which six pilæ, formed of fourteen tiles each, have been exposed to view.

TENDERS

For a Sugar-house for Messrs. Wainwright and Garsden, Leman-street, Goodman's-fields; Mr. R. Suter, architect:

Munday	£1,500
Kell	4,500
Piper	4,435
Hayward and Nason	4,575
Lawrence and Son	4,175
Nyers	4,165
Grindell	4,100
Little and Sons	4,000
Wilson	4,000
Winsland and Holland	3,999
Lock and Newham	3,900
L'Anson	3,905
Ashby and Hurst	3,905
Lee and Son	3,910

Quantities taken out by Marsland and Meakin.

For a Parsonage-house at Wheatley, Oxfordshire; Mr. Lamb, architect:—

Markroy	£1,475 0 0
Proud, Wheatley	1,475 15 0
Pleasant and Lock, Oxford	1,477 0 0
Walker and Soper	1,075 0 0
Burton	981 0 0
Bracher	974 0 0
Symon, Oxford	963 0 0
Holland, Thame	950 0 0
Lodlow, Oxford (accepted)	949 0 0

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Part VI. of this work, price 2*s.* 6*d.*, is now ready, containing Views of the Great Hall at the Euston Station of the London and North-Western Railway; the General Meeting-room at the same; the Mansion of H. T. Hope, Esq., M.P., Piccadilly; St. Barnabas's College, Queen-street, Piccadilly; Romney Abbey Church; the London Coal Exchange, Lower Thames-street; the House of Francis L. Champs Elyers, Paris; the Hotel Lacaze, Paris; Pont in the Madeleine, Paris: with descriptive Letter-press, and Details.

Part VII. will be published May 1, and Part VIII. will complete the work. To prevent disappointment, the names of parties intending to take the work when completed should be sent forthwith.

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